

Meeting discussing freeway in Lakewood back on

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A month after the Arizona Department of Transportation cancelled its agreed-upon meeting with Lakewood homeowners in Ahwatukee Foothills to discuss the impact of the proposed South Mountain Loop 202 Freeway it appears the meeting is back on, thanks to two lawmakers.

"I thought ADOT made a big mistake cancelling the meeting," said Rep. John McComish, referring to the scheduled May meeting between ADOT staff and Lakewood residents on how the freeway would impact the homeowners association.

McComish contacted ADOT and volunteered, along with Sen. John Huppenthal, to moderate a meeting between ADOT and Lakewood residents, who will be heavily impacted by construction of the proposed freeway.

"It's the right thing to do," said McComish, an Ahwatukee Foothills resident who was also a member of the Ahwatukee Foothills Village Planning Committee for many years. "That highway, if it's built on Pecos Road, will have a big impact on the Lakewood homeowners."

Details of the meeting are still being worked out, and no date has been set, although mid-June has been mentioned.

In 2006, ADOT met in Lakewood to discuss the freeway status and the meeting became heated and contentious with some residents irate at the proposed freeway that will displace at least 55 homes in the area, as well as require relocation of HOA-owned wells that supply water for the development's signature lakes.